



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: August 18, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: August 17, 2003
CWP WA-CW3303

Majority of Wheat and Barley Crop Harvested Pear Harvest Began Around Douglas and Chelan Counties

Field Crops

A week of relatively uninterrupted harvest activity helped get the majority of the 2003 wheat and barley crop in the bin. Combines continued to roll across the hills of the Palouse, as stubble became more prevalent than standing grain. Yield reports on spring grain remained low, but were not as disappointing as anticipated with the hot and dry conditions. Dry bean harvest began while the third cutting of alfalfa was well underway. Turfgrass growers in Thurston County continued cultivating very dry, dusty fields in preparation for seeding.

Livestock

Around Whatcom County, producers on irrigated fields were into their sixth cutting of grass silage, while non-irrigated fields were dry and not very productive. Range and pasture conditions were 6% very poor, 18% poor, 57% fair, and 19% good.

Fruits and Vegetables

In Grays Harbor County, spring flower bulb growers continued sorting bulbs and preparing fields for planting. Cranberry bogs continued to be irrigated in Pacific County. Excellent crop conditions were reported by Kitsap County fruit and vegetable growers. Blueberry, carrot, seed carrot, seed onion, spinach seed, and sweet corn harvest continued. Raspberry harvest finished with yields below last year. Bartlett pear harvest began around Douglas and Chelan Counties. Apple harvest has also begun for the earlier varieties.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.8
Last Week	6.3

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	43	32	25	0
Subsoil	17	31	52	0
Irrigation Water	5	8	87	0
Hay & Roughage	3	5	87	5

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2002	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	73	44	51	49
Winter Wheat Harvested	84	68	69	72
Barley Harvested	69	40	37	45
Potatoes Harvested	28	27	26	20
Corn Silage Harvested	6	4	4	4
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	11	2	0	2
Dry Peas Harvested	81	52	45	51
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	72	48	53	59

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Spring Wheat Dryland	9	28	44	18	1
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	2	16	82	0
Barley Dryland	7	24	51	17	1
Barley Irrigated	0	1	14	85	0
Potatoes	0	0	15	75	10
Corn	0	0	9	91	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	1	7	63	29

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clark: Last week's light scattered showers had little effect on improving soil moisture levels.

Grays Harbor: Sporadic rain showers early last week helped to dampen extremely dry soil conditions. Truck gardeners continued to express frustration over the lack of rain and dry soil conditions. Spring flower bulb growers continued sorting bulbs and preparing fields for planting. Christmas tree growers were top-working Noble fir.

Jefferson: The weather continued to be very dry. The North Olympic Peninsula continued to be in high fire danger. Haying was mostly complete and vegetable crops looked good. There was still a good quantity of stream water, with little to no irrigation being done.

Kitsap: Local fruit and vegetable producers reported excellent crop conditions with average and above average yields.

Pacific: Dry conditions persisted throughout last week with somewhat cooler temperatures. Irrigation of cranberry bogs continued along with weed control efforts. Christmas tree shearing was still underway. Shellfish farmers nearly finished oyster seeding operations and transplantation.

Skagit: Irrigated crops looked great as warm, sunny weather continued. Non-irrigated crops still suffered. Apple growers were gearing up to begin harvest of early varieties. No late blight was reported on spuds at this point, but some early blight was present. Spinach seed showed poor yields. Miniature pumpkins were already orange. Many other crops were about two weeks ahead in their development due to low soil moisture and warm temperatures.

Snohomish/North King: Dry and hot conditions continued with slightly cooler temperatures. Farmers with irrigation available were working it hard. Many crops continued to be stressed, but there were no reports of loss. Wheat harvest continued and corn silage harvest was expected to start earlier than normal.

Snohomish/North King(2nd report): A sprinkle of rain was received late in the week. Non-irrigated crops and pastures were suffering. Hay cutting and green chopping continued. Some local corn was harvested and blueberry harvest continued. Dry weather has reduced most fungal diseases on crops.

Thurston: Isolated thunder showers early last week delivered as much as one inch of rainfall in some areas, but for the most part, the area remained extremely dry. Oregon ash and Bigleaf maples (*Acer Macrophyllum*) were expressing beautiful fall color as a result of the lack of soil moisture. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble fir and shearing Douglas fir. Livestock growers continued feeding hay due to drought stricken pastures. Turfgrass growers continued cultivating very dry, dusty fields in preparation for seeding. Blueberry harvest was winding down.

Whatcom: Raspberry harvest was completed with yields 20-30 percent below last year's harvest. Blueberry harvest continued. Potatoes were sprayed and some fields were cut back. Potato harvest may begin in a few weeks. Corn looked good despite the dry conditions. Grass silage producers with irrigation were into their 6th cutting. Most of the grasses on the non-irrigated fields were dry and not producing much in the way of silage.

Central

Chelan: Bartlett pear harvest started and will be active over the next 2-3 weeks. Gala apple harvest will begin this week, being most active the last week of August through mid-September.

Douglas/Chelan: Winter wheat harvest was almost complete with average yields. Spring wheat and barley harvest has begun with below average yields due to dry conditions. Apple harvest has begun for Ginger golds and Gala varieties. The crop should be approximately the same size as last year. Cherry harvest was completed, with a light crop and larger sizes being reported. Some cherries were picked specifically as freezers because of the freeze last November. Pear harvest began with the crop expected to be average with smaller sizing due to the long, hot spell this summer.

Franklin: Warm, sunny weather continued. Potato, carrot, and sweet corn harvest continued. Dry bean harvest began. The

third cutting of alfalfa was well underway.

Grant: Sweet corn harvest continued. Seed onion and seed carrot harvest was underway.

Kittitas: Second cutting of feed hay was approximately 30 percent completed. Wheat was 75 percent harvested and local storage was full. The second cutting of commercial timothy hay began late last week. Corn silk was turning brown in most fields. Some rain was received last weekend, but was not enough to green up non-irrigated range and pasture.

Kittitas (2nd report): The third cutting of alfalfa were underway. Range and pasture conditions were stressed due to continued dry warm weather. Sweet corn harvest will begin soon. The Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) irrigation water was scheduled to be shut off mid-September, approximately one month early.

Ferry: The third cutting of alfalfa was underway.

Eastern

Adams: Wheat and barley harvest was complete. Winter wheat seeding will begin soon.

Lincoln: Wheat and barley harvest were wrapping up, and the southern part of the county will begin seeding winter wheat soon.

Lincoln (2nd report): Grain harvest was winding down in some of the drier parts of the county, while other parts were steadily progressing. Winter wheat yields were reported normal to slightly higher than normal. Spring grain crops were expected to be below normal. Much of the pasture and rangeland was in poor condition, with precipitation needed.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Last week was another week of warm temperatures and no rain. Harvest progressed pretty well with the majority of the winter wheat harvested. Spring grains were being cut. A fair amount of the spring grains were not ready to be cut. Test weight and grades reflected the lack of rain in the southern part of Spokane County. Test weights came in at 57

pounds for some of those that had been graded.

Walla Walla/Columbia: Harvest yields were disappointing overall. Most indicate winter wheat crop yields okay overall, but all spring crop yields were significantly lower than anticipated. Rangeland was in very poor condition and dry. Fire hazard was extreme.

Whitman: Harvest progressed well during the week, with only a few minor delays.

Whitman (2nd report): A week of uninterrupted harvest activity helped get most of the 2003 crop in the bin. Combines continued to roll, but stubble was more prevalent than standing grain in most areas. Harvest continued in full swing in the eastern part of the county. The west and central area of the county were winding up harvest. Reports on yields were not as disappointing as many anticipated with the summer's hot, dry conditions.

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Weekly Weather Statistics

August 18, 2003

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	47	81	64	2	101	10	31	3	0.00	-0.30	0	26.25	-9.22	74	147
Everett	51	79	66	3	111	15	41	11	0.02	-0.28	1	24.74	-11.03	69	146
Hoquiam	48	80	62	2	88	4	18	1	0.07	-0.22	2	60.56	-6.52	90	163
Kelso	52	90	67	3	123	18	53	14	0.00	-0.32	0	23.70	-22.06	52	105
Olympia	44	86	65	2	107	10	37	7	0.07	-0.21	1	37.19	-12.70	75	152
Sea-Tac	54	82	67	2	122	10	52	10	0.00	-0.24	0	31.56	-5.02	86	143
Shelton	46	90	66	1	112	2	42	0	0.03	-0.22	2	54.54	-9.65	85	149
Tacoma	45	84	66	2	116	11	46	11	0.00	-0.28	0	26.82	-12.75	68	132
Vancouver	52	94	70	5	141	36	71	29	0.00	-0.27	0	34.26	-6.39	84	138
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	47	99	70	2	138	10	68	8	0.00	-0.07	0	7.90	-0.81	91	80
Omak	47	104	73	6	163	39	93	37	0.00	-0.26	0	11.82	-2.72	81	61
Stampede Pass	44	82	59	4	67	18	18	4	0.09	-0.33	1	58.86	-21.08	74	149
Wenatchee	57	99	75	2	175	10	105	11	0.00	-0.07	0	8.90	0.85	111	75
Yakima AP	46	98	70	1	144	7	74	5	0.02	-0.05	1	8.28	0.54	107	60
NORTHEAST															
Colville	47	104	73	6	160	43	90	41	0.07	-0.17	1	17.72	-2.94	86	77
Deer Park	41	95	68	-2	126	-7	56	-8	0.08	-0.09	1	20.42	2.31	113	100
Spokane AP	50	93	70	1	142	8	72	6	0.01	-0.13	1	15.29	-0.82	95	104
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	54	101	75	-1	174	1	104	1	0.00	-0.05	0	7.82	0.73	110	58
Moses Lake	47	100	73	-2	164	-9	94	-9	0.00	-0.05	0	8.19	1.10	116	74
Quincy	55	96	75	5	174	28	104	27	0.00	-0.07	0	6.29	-1.33	83	55
Ritzville	50	98	70	2	144	8	74	6	0.00	-0.07	0	11.26	0.21	102	85
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	52	102	76	-2	186	-10	116	-10	0.00	-0.07	0	8.40	2.07	133	69
Pasco	50	99	73	-2	163	-8	93	-8	0.00	-0.07	0	7.12	-0.16	98	73
Pullman	43	97	67	0	118	3	48	-1	0.00	-0.21	0	10.32	-10.35	50	89
Whitman Miss.	45	99	71	1	150	5	80	4	0.00	-0.14	0	14.40	0.95	107	117
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	45	93	69	-2	136	-6	66	-7	0.00	-0.28	0	18.33	-6.96	72	102
Lewiston ID	58	101	77	3	192	21	122	22	0.00	-0.16	0	12.90	0.89	107	113

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2002

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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